



## COMMODORES

As the U.S. Navy's premier jazz ensemble, the Commodores offer the finest in America's true classical music—**JAZZ!** A specialty unit of The United States Navy Band in Washington, D.C., the group features 18 of the Navy's top jazz and "big band" musicians.

Under the direction of Master Chief Musician Leland V. Gause, the Commodores combine the best of jazz and popular music. Many of the members compose and arrange music for the group in styles ranging from the authentic sounds of the swing era to contemporary music.

The Commodores celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 1998 in Dublin, Ireland performing for thousands of Dubliners at two public concerts, and a special performance at the U.S. Ambassador's residence for Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith's final official function. They have also performed at the Detroit Montreux Jazz Festival and the famed Newport Jazz Festival, and toured Central and South America, Europe and the United States.

James Moody, Eugene "Snooky" Young, Clark Terry, Louie Bellson and Ray Charles are a few of the artists who have appeared with the band. In 1998 jazz vibraphonist, Terry Gibbs performed with the group at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Anaheim, Calif. The group also performed with Arturo Sandoval at the 1997 Walt Disney World Jazz Festival in Orlando, Fla.

The Commodores present clinics at high schools and colleges, and regularly perform at conventions of the International Association of Jazz Educators, International Trumpet Guild Conference, and the Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic.

The group's latest compact disc entitled, "Sessions on M Street, S.E.," featuring the title track by Chief Musician Stephen H. Williams was released in the fall of 1998. The band was featured on the Department of Interior's 1993 Memorial Day Radio Program "Flying Home: A Commemoration of the Swing Music of World War II," airing on over 1,100 stations nationwide. Other recordings by the Commodores include the popular "Here and Now" CD (1996), "Some Bop" (1988) and "Full Swing Ahead" (1982).